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News Release

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3 sentenced for distributing methamphetamine

The last of three people involved in the distribution of methamphetamine in Minnesota and North Dakota was sentenced yesterday in federal court.

United States District Court Judge David Doty sentenced Jessica Joy Wilson, 37, Bigfork, to 15 months in prison and three years of supervised release June 9 in Minneapolis on one count of aiding and abetting distribution of methamphetamine. Wilson was indicted on Oct. 16, 2007, and pleaded guilty on Jan. 31.

Two other defendants have already been sentenced for their roles in the distribution. Fermin Santacruz Rivera, 37, West St. Paul, was sentenced to 120 months in prison and five years of supervised release April 29 on one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Michelle Lee Lopez, 32, Worthington, was sentenced to 16 months and four years of supervised release June 2 on one count of aiding and abetting distribution of methamphetamine.

Both were also indicted on Oct. 16, and Rivera pleaded guilty on Jan. 10 while Lopez pleaded guilty on Jan. 31.

According to a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) affidavit, Rivera was being investigated starting in early 2007, and police were able to make an "arranged controlled buy" of methamphetamine from Rivera on July 25, 2007, at an apartment complex parking lot in Richfield where he was arrested. During the execution of a search warrant of Rivera's West St. Paul residence, police recovered approximately \$3,000 and approximately 8 ounces of methamphetamine.

Law enforcement conducted a search warrant on May 4, 2007, at Lopez's Worthington residence, and recovered approximately 2 ounces of methamphetamine, a .25-caliber pistol, and several items of drug trafficking paraphernalia.

A search warrant executed on Wilson's vehicle yielded 1 ounce of methamphetamine, \$1,000 and items of drug paraphernalia. During a search warrant of a Brainerd residence,

authorities recovered 5 ounces of methamphetamine.

This case was the result of an investigation by the DEA, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, and the police departments of Brainerd, West St. Paul and Worthington. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey M. Bryan and Andrew S. Dunne.